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RECOMMENDATIONS ON ELECTORAL REFORMS AGREED WITH EC

LDS and other political parties have completed a round of discussions with the Electoral Commission on electoral reforms.

In a meeting today, Friday November 3rd, 2017, recommendations on the major points that require constitutional or legal amendments have been reviewed and agreed except for some details. These recommendations will be sent to the Executive and it is hoped that the legislative process to bring the measures into force will start soon.

LDS is satisfied that all the main issues of concern have been addressed. The details on which political parties have not agreed are on such issues as the amount of time that a citizen who is normally resident overseas has to be in the country before she can register, and the steps to remove a person from the register where the person is found to be not resident in Seychelles though a voters census.

LDS has accepted that on matters where there is no consensus among political parties, the Electoral Commission should make a sensible and impartial recommendation for legislation. Any legal amendments will need to go to the National Assembly for debate and enactment.

Apart from constitutional amendments, the reform measures will require substantial changes in the Elections Act and a new law to regulate campaign financing.

There is also the task of drawing up all the rules and procedures for the whole electoral process to be included in a Handbook and covered in the law, so that there can be no deviations in practice. LDS hopes that the Electoral Commission will press ahead with this, and bring to a conclusion the exercise to establish a fair and transparent electoral process.

Roger Mancienne
Party Leader.

November 3rd, 2017